

# YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of August 15, 2016

No. 255

*From Enid's desk . . .*

## ✓ Early Literacy Activity Centers

There will not be an exchange of the Early Literacy Activity Centers this fall. I will be working on a new form for replacement items, which will be in place by mid-September. I will also be working on printing and mailing early literacy activity tips that were created by Krista Dawson (Richmond Public Library) and that have been translated into Spanish. We have purchased tabletop menu stands to display the tip cards.



## ✓ STEM Science Resource Hubs

Seven libraries will be hosting the new Science Resource Hubs - Buchanan County Public Library, Eastern Shore Public Library, Fluvanna County Public Library, Prince William Public Library System, Tazewell County Public Library, Wythe-Grayson Regional Library, and York County Public Library.

Each library system has agreed to catalog and loan materials in the Science Resource Hubs to area libraries and community agencies. For a complete list of the libraries hosting Science Resource Hubs, please see <http://vpl.virginia.gov/youth-services/stem-resource-hubs/>

We are in the process of scheduling STEM training workshops with the Science Museum of Virginia in October and November.

## ✓ Nature Backpacks

Please send me the evaluations for the Nature Backpacks, as I do share them with our partnering agencies: the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Science Museum of Virginia. Evaluations may be mailed to Enid Costley at Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or the responses may be entered online at <http://vpl.virginia.gov/nature-backpacks/>

## ALA News

### A Library Card Provides Endless Opportunities for Family Engagement

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time when the nation's public libraries highlight the value of a library card. As children head back to school, family time is often hindered by homework and afterschool and social activities.

A public library card is your ticket to free educational resources and activities that bring families together. Libraries not only provide resources to parents and children that support early literacy and lifelong learning, but truly transform how families spend time together.



Card holders have free access to a family destination that provides a spectrum of free services, including digital workshops for all-ages; STEAM programs/activities; mother-daughter book clubs; family storytimes; and game nights.

*Families are integral to a child's development, as shown by data collected by the Harvard Family Research Project and the Public Library Association for its report, "Public Libraries: A Vital Space for Family Engagement." (See page 3 for more about this project.)*

The report highlights the importance of libraries, with their rich digital environment and hands-on resources, and skilled librarians in helping parents to guide their children's learning. Libraries are spaces, it notes, that embrace the entire family across every generation and offer constructive outlets for family engagement, including makerspaces, water-wise gardening, STEAM activities and writing clubs.

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## The Library of Virginia

### Mission

As the Commonwealth's library and archives, the Library of Virginia is a trusted educational institution. We acquire, preserve, and promote access to unique collections of Virginia's history and advance the development of library and records management services statewide.

### Vision

The Library of Virginia will inspire learning, ignite imagination, create possibilities, encourage understanding, and engage Virginia's past to empower its future.

### Finance

The Library's primary funding source is General Fund appropriations. The majority of the Library's General Fund expenses represent transfer payments to local government for state aid to public libraries. Additionally, the Library earns special nongeneral fund revenue from storage fees charged to agencies and courts for document and records storage and from local circuit court records' preservation fees.

**The Library also receives federal grant funding through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) of 1996. This grant promotes access to learning and information resources of libraries.**

### Goals

2014-2016

### Collections:

Strengthen and Preserve the Library's collections and expand accessibility for the benefit of users.

### Service:

Deliver courteous, accurate, and efficient information services to our customers.

### Organizational Excellence:

Position the Library to effectively embrace new challenges and increasing responsibilities.

### Educational Readiness and Achievement:

Engage and educate parents, teachers, and learners through programming designed to enhance early literacy readiness and to provide access to quality education resources for prekindergarten and K12 children.

This goal is critical in fulfilling the Library's mission to provide Virginians with access to the most comprehensive information resources and to elevate levels of educational preparedness and attainment of Virginia's citizens.

### Associated State Goal

Education: Elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens.

### Education Attainment Objectives

- ◆ Increase the number of children who participate in the Winter Reading Program.
- ◆ Increase the number of children and teens who are served by public libraries through out-of-school programs and summer reading programs.
- ◆ Support the parent as a child's first teacher by implementing Early Literacy Activity Centers in public libraries and providing training on their use.

## Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly by

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**The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.**

**Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.**

**This newsletter project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.**

## A Library Card Provides Endless Opportunities for Family Engagement

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Libraries throughout the country are bringing families together for both learning and quality personal time. They are serving a crucial need especially in areas with immigrant populations with low-incomes. In an area of New York City where one quarter of the residents do not speak English, The **Queens Borough Public Library's Family Literacy Program** offers parents, caregivers and children the opportunity to hone their literacy skills in an atmosphere that promotes togetherness and fosters intergenerational understanding. Activities include parents writing and sharing their life stories with their children.

At the **Waukegan (Illinois) Public Library**, with a 57-percent Latino population, trusted members of the community connect families with such services as bilingual storytimes and conversational ESL programs.


In **Maryland**, libraries hold **Library Cafés** for families with young children that involve them in a group meal, followed by a recreation period during which children can play together and work on their literacy while the adults get to know one another. Librarians provide support by pointing families toward local resources.

**Throughout Library Card Sign-Up Month, libraries will offer a variety of incentives to spur signups and renewals.** One Michigan library promoted Library Card Sign-Up Month by partnering with local businesses and organizations. By showing their library cards, patrons could receive everything from a discount for students attending the local symphony orchestra to savings at a local shoe store, a pharmacy and even a local brewery.

This year's Library Card Sign-Up Month Honorary Chair is **Snoopy**, the world-famous beagle featured in the Peanuts comic strip, calling attention to the supportive role libraries and library professionals play in the education, academic achievement and development of children.

**Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year.** It is a time when the ALA and libraries nationwide join together to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.

*For more information regarding Library Card Sign-up Month and Snoopy artwork, please visit <http://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/presskits/lcsum>.*

ALA Press Release, August 10, 2016 

## Public Library Association News New Report on Family Engagement in Public Libraries from Harvard Family Research Project and the Public Library Association

**A new report, "Public Libraries: A Vital Space for Family Engagement," released by Harvard Family Research Project and the Public Library Association issues a call to action for libraries to strengthen their efforts to engage families in children's learning.**

**Harvard Family Research Project** surveyed public library leaders from around the country about their family engagement practices, convened a learning community of librarians, conducted interviews with librarians and reviewed research to closely study family engagement practices in public libraries. This report highlights five promising ways that libraries engage families in children's learning from early childhood and throughout the school years.

- **Reach Out:** Libraries reach out to families to promote the programs, collections, and services that are vital in a knowledge economy.
- **Raise Up:** Libraries elevate family views and voices in how library programs and services are developed and carried out.
- **Reinforce:** Libraries guide and model the specific actions that family members can take to support learning, reaffirming families' important roles and strengthening feelings of efficacy.
- **Relate:** Libraries offer opportunities for families to build peer-to-peer relationships, social networks and parent-child relationships.
- **Reimagine:** Libraries are expanding their community partnerships; combining resources and extending their range; improving children's and families' well-being; and linking to new learning opportunities.

**Children and youth learn in countless ways, anywhere, anytime. And one of the most powerful levers of children's learning is the family.** Libraries are supporting families and building pathways for promoting their children's lifelong learning. Beginning in the early years, public library services such as story time and early literacy programming help children get ready for school. Libraries serve as pillars for school-age children's afterschool and summer learning experiences and invite families to participate in diverse activities, from engaging in maker spaces and digital

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## New Report on Family Engagement in Public Libraries

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media labs to exploring healthy lifestyles. Through offerings in adult education, job seeking and computer skills, libraries are reinventing themselves as hubs of two-generation learning. According to **Clara Bohrer** and **Kathleen Reif**, co-chairs of the Public Library Association's Family Engagement Task Force, *"family engagement goes well beyond the support of early literacy and our youngest children, and encompasses the wide range of services offered by libraries for families and children of all ages."*

**Furthermore, libraries are essential community partners in contributing to more equitable learning opportunities for children living in poverty or from low-income homes.** For the many children without preschool experience, libraries fill gaps in their access to guided and research-based early learning experiences. For those without access to afterschool programs, libraries offer safe spaces for homework help and enrichment. And for those who are under-connected, free access to high-speed Internet connections and quality digital media and technology makes learning tools available.

**Libraries are creating new ways to serve all families and their children.** Heather B. Weiss, director of Harvard Family Research Project, says, "What we've learned is extraordinary. We've heard from a librarian in Alaska who reaches out to families—so geographically dispersed that you need a plane to get to them—by setting up satellite bookshelves in fire stations. We even heard from a library system in Pennsylvania that has re-envisioned the supportive role that libraries can play for families by running the city's afterschool programming."

**The report also draws attention to the assets of public libraries for building a foundation for family engagement.** These resources include the people they serve as well as the expertise of librarians; the place each holds as a trusted and welcoming institution in the community; and the role they play as a platform for children and families to use library materials for discovery, innovation and the creation of new knowledge.

*The report and related resources are funded by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. They can be accessed at <http://www.ala.org/pla/familyengagement>. More information on Harvard Family Research Project's public library project including the report can be accessed at <http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/projects/libraries-for-the-21st-century-it-s-a-family-thing>*

ALA Press Release, August 9, 2016 

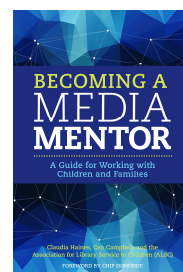
## Association for Library Service to Children News

### ALSC's Guide to Becoming a Media Mentor

**In a time of rapidly changing technologies, the role of the youth services librarian has expanded to include the realm of digital media.**

Supporting children's literacy now means serving as a media mentor.

**"Becoming a Media Mentor: A Guide for Working with Children and Families,"** published by ALA Editions, empowers youth services staff to confidently assist families and caregivers as they navigate the digital world, guiding them towards digital media experiences that will translate into positive and productive lifelong learning skills, regardless of format. **Claudia Haines**, **Cen Campbell**, and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) meld the latest research and key messages from a variety of experts with replicable examples. This book:



- defines what it means to be a media mentor, providing historical background and context;
- outlines three types of media mentorship: media advisory, programming, and access to curated media;
- outlines the implications of media mentorship in libraries, focusing on a shift from the notion of "screen time" to "healthy media decisions";
- draws on detailed case studies from a wide variety of libraries and community partnerships to showcase inspiring media mentorship in action with ages 0-14;
- provides guidelines for working with diverse families and caregivers; and
- explores management issues around media mentorship, ALSC competencies, suggestions of additional resources, and professional development.

Haines and Campbell are coauthors of ALSC's white paper, "Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth" (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/mediamentorship>).

Haines leads storytimes, hosts maker programs, and gets great books into the hands of kids and teens as the youth services librarian and media mentor at the Homer (Alaska) Public Library. She blogs at "never shushed" (<https://nevershushed.com/>).

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## From Enid's desk: Nature Backpacks

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So far –

- **95 people** have responded to the evaluation.
- I plan on sharing information I know about available materials resources and services provided by the Library with family and friends  
**90.5% strongly agree and 9.5% agree**
- I think the materials resources and services provided by the library are very useful hands-on learning tools  
**90.5% strongly agree and 9.5% agree**
- I learned something new while using the materials resources and services provided by the library  
**75.5% strongly agree and 24.5% agree**
- The materials resources and services provided by the Library made learning more exciting & understandable.  
**85.3% strongly agree and 14.7% agree**
- **94.7% state that they strongly agree** that they will likely use the materials resources and services provided by the library again in the future

**We are currently working with our partners to expand the program.** We will be offering a new theme Nature Backpack (Survival theme) and adding 50 libraries to the program. We will also ask the 135 participating libraries to inventory and assess their items for wear. The Park Passes will expire in December 2020.

## ✓ Summer Reading Program

The theme for the 2017 summer reading program is "Reading by Design."

To get a sneak peek of the artwork, see [https://www.ireadprogram.org/content/documents/iread\\_themes\\_flyer\\_2017.pdf](https://www.ireadprogram.org/content/documents/iread_themes_flyer_2017.pdf)

**The Library of Virginia will support your libraries summer reading program by providing, posters, bookmarks, and certificates for the various artwork.** We will also provide a CD of the manual and artwork. We will also offer posters and bookmarks to promote the Summer Food Program. Once we have more details from iREAD, we will post an order form on the Library of Virginia's Virginia Public Libraries Extranet (<http://vpl.virginia.gov/>).

## ✓ Free to a Good Home in a Library

**We have some educational materials are looking for a good home in a public library.** If interested, complete the online form at

<https://goo.gl/forms/ks0SyA2f1aZCHVvf2>

## ✓ Winter Reading Program

Place your order for the Winter Reading Program materials at

<http://vpl.virginia.gov/youth-services/winter-reading-program/>. We will be offering the Winter Reading Program in our new online reading program software - BookPoints.


## ✓ TumbleBooks

**When we first offered TumbleBooks it was on the only online service of its kind for young children. Now there are other companies offering a similar service.** The Library of Virginia needs to go out for bid in April 2017. If you have suggestions in the creation of the RFP, please contact me at [enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov).

## ✓ Coaching Training

**If you are managing library staff (or ever inspire to), working on a project with a group, or working with teens, a good tool to have in your "tool box" is "coaching" skills.** We do offer training on coaching. Coaching is careful listening, asking probing questions and empowering others. It is a powerful tool and a game changer.

**Coaching training begins with 8-hour training session held over two half days at the Chesapeake Public Library on October 4 and 5.** This will be followed by reading (the book is provided) and a practice session. A follow up workshop will be offered with an additional practice session. Register at: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coaching-for-library-staff-tickets-27149930172?utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/coaching-for-library-staff-tickets-27149930172?utm_term=eventurl_text). The password is Coaching2016.

**As always, if you have questions about any of these services or programs, please contact me at [enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov)** 

## ALSC's Guide to Becoming a Media Mentor

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Campbell is a children's librarian, an author, and the founder of the website "Little eLit: Young Children, New Media & Libraries" (<https://littleelit.com/>), for which she was named a *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker in 2014.

ALA Press Release, August 9, 2010





## Dates to Remember

### Virginia Conferences

October 26-28, 2016 ..... VLA Annual Conference ..... Hot Springs

### National Conferences

October 27-29, 2016 ..... Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference ..... Fargo

November 4-6, 2016 ..... YALSA's 2016 YA Services Symposium ..... Pittsburgh

### Workshops

August 29, 2016 ..... Library of Virginia Youth Services Fall Workshop ..... Blacksburg

August 30, 2016 ..... Library of Virginia Youth Services Fall Workshop ..... Waynesboro

August 31, 2016 ..... Library of Virginia Youth Services Fall Workshop ..... Henrico

September 1, 2016 ..... Library of Virginia Youth Services Fall Workshop ..... Chesapeake

October 3, 2016 ..... Bilingual Storytime and Library Outreach ..... Online Course

October 3, 2016 ..... Supercharged Virginia Storytime ..... Online Course

### Important reading program dates

September 30, 2016 ..... Last Day to Access Evanced Summer Reader. We will be using new software for the Winter Reading Program and the Summer Reading Program

Now! ..... Place your orders for the winter reading program at  
<http://vpl.virginia.gov/youth-services/winter-reading-program/>

### Library Observances, Celebration Weeks & Promotional Events

#### September

Library Card Sign-up Month ..... <http://www.ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/factsheets/librarycardsign>

Hispanic Heritage Month ..... <http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>  
 (September 15–October 15)

#### Observances

September 5 ..... Labor Day

September 6 ..... Read a Book Day

September 11 ..... National Grandparents Day

September 15 ..... International Dot Day

September 21 ..... International Day of Peace

September 25 ..... Comic Book Day

September 26–October 1 ..... Banned Books Week

*Thanks* for the photos and information!

◇ The usual resources - ALA ALSC, PLA